are not available, they get treatment from Army Hospitals subject to either of the condition that no civil hospital exists in that location or even if it is exists there is no accommodation in the civil hospital. No separate data is maintained regarding the number of GREF persons availing CGHS facilities or getting treatment from Army Hospitals.

Enhancement of uncongenial climate allowance

1712. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has cleared a proposal to enhance uncongenial climate allowance by over four times and increase travel facilities for armed forces personnel posted in isolated and hazardous high altitude areas along the Line of Control; and

(b) if so, the details of the new rates?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) and (b) The High Altitude (Uncongenial Climate) Allowance is payable to Armed Forces personnel deployed in High Altitude (Uncongenial Climate) areas. The Government has recently decided to grant enhanced rates of High Altitude (Uncongenial Climate) Allowance to troops deployed in more difficult, hazardous and isolated areas above 14000 ft within the existing High Altitude (Uncongenial Climate) Areas at the rate of Rs.5600 per month for Officers and Rs.3734 per month for Personnel Below Officer Rank with a view to rationalize the High Altitude Allowance. The enhanced allowance is 80% of Siachen allowance and is comparable to Siachen allowance in proportion to the physical hardships being faced by the Armed Force Personnel.

Besides, the Government has decided to provide the following travel facilities for Armed Forces personnel:

(i) Grant of one additional free rail warrant every year to all ranks of Armed Forces serving in field/high altitude/counter insurgency/counter terrorism operational areas to travel to and from their duty station and Home Town/Selected Place of Residence.

(ii) All Service personnel would be eligible to avail leave travel concession once in a year to their hometown in India or Selected Place of Residence in India and every alternate year to any place in India in lieu of hometown or Selected Place of Residence without any distance restriction.

Revealing of military information by army personnel

1713. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI:
SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian Army personnel are revealing startling military information on one of the most popular online social networking sites known as Orkut;

(b) if so, whether Indian Army has instituted an enquiry into such incidents; and